

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0365

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4536

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP NOTES: BODNARAS, CIOARA

1. ACCORDING TO UK SOURCE, COUNCIL OF STATE VICE PRESIDENT EMIL BODNARAS HAD EYE OPERATION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FROM WHICH HE IS NOW RECOVERING. SOME SAY THE PROBLEM IS CATARACTS. BODNARAS HAS BEEN TALKING OF RETIRING TO A TITULAR POSITION AND ASSUMING A LIGHTER WORKLOAD. COMMENT: BODNARAS' LAST PUBLIC APPEARANCE WAS TO SEE OFF CHINESE DELEGATION AFTER AUGSUT 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. HE WAS ABSENT FROM CHINESE 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION IN BUCHAREST SEPTEMBER 30 ALTHOUGH AS GOR'S SENIOR CONTACT WITH CHINESE LEADERSHIP HE WAS EXPECTED TO ATTEND. RCP'S 11TH PARTY CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER COULD PROVIDE BODNARAS, NOW 70, WITH APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO STEP INTO LESS ACTIVE ROLE.

2. GHEORGHE CIOARA, MAYOR OF BUCHAREST, HAS NOT MADE PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 4 WHEN HE MET MAYOR ATHANSON OF HARTFORD CONNECTICUT. SEVERAL REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES INDICATE HE HAS SINCE BEEN ILL, OUT OF ACTION OR HAS UNDERGONE AN OPERATION. ONE OF CIOARA'S RELATIVES (A NEPHEW, ACCORDING TO ONE RUMOR) HAS REPORTEDLY DEFECTED TO THE WEST.
BARNES

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